

ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS  
OF NORTH WARD RESIDENTS

Practicum I URED 621  
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Urban Community Affairs

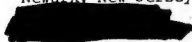
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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to find out what residents of some of the traditional ethnic neighborhoods in Newark's North Ward feel toward important issues of urban life which affect their lives now and will continue to affect their lives in the future. Concerned citizens of the North Ward will frequently ask themselves and others such questions as: "Will our Senior Citizens be able to enjoy their retirement years in comfort? Will our youth have decent recreational facilities? Will the streets of the North Ward be safe to walk at night?" These are just some aspects of Urban Community Life that have been confronted in this study.

The results of an opinion poll conducted for the Newark Star Ledger in early 1974 gave an indication of the social state of the City of Newark. A majority of the residents interviewed rated the delivery of municipal services as fair to poor. Police protection, garbage collection, fire-fighting and health facilities were the services viewed most positively. Air-pollution control, recreation and park facilities, welfare and education services were rated least favorably. This survey was a random sampling of residents of the entire City of Newark.<sup>1</sup>

In the December, 1976 issue of Urban Affairs Quarterly, Nicholas Lovrich and G. Thomas Taylor reported on a public opinion survey which they conducted in the City of Denver, Colorado. It was entitled Neighborhood Evaluation of Local Government Services. This study was one of a relatively small, but growing number of attempts to approach the question of local government program evaluation from the prospective of citizen judgements expressed in attitude surveys.

This study argued that there is considerable common ground between the Technocrats and the Community Control advocated in the area of the evaluation of local government services. By utilizing a citizen survey and cluster sampling technique the evaluation of local government services can be brought to the ethnic and class neighborhoods which are so often extremely salient features of the urban setting.<sup>2</sup>

The survey by Lovrich and Taylor concluded that political realities necessitate a new organizational accomodation .....to meet the needs of neighborhoods by ensuring that policies are determined with neighborhood inputs. The potential importance of such a channel for neighborhood input is highlighted by the fact that the replacement of many Office of Economical Opportunity Categorical Grants (involving "maximum feasible participation" requirements) with general and special revenue funding since 1972 has brought about a significant reduction in the variety, scope and intensity of citizen participation programs in many urban areas. One of the major findings of the study by Lovrich and Taylor was that the perceptions of each ethnic group were strongly related to the condition of the neighborhood wherein they resided. Community attitudes toward the police in Denver, in particular, were shown to be especially sensitive to the influences of ethnicity and condition of neighborhood.<sup>3</sup>

There are many topics that can be covered in a study dealing with Urban Community Life. The topics that this survey will focus upon are:

1. Conditions for Senior Citizens
2. Crime Rate
3. Population Projection

4. Recreational Facilities
5. City Services
6. Community Service Centers
7. Education

Newark is a physically, economically and socially viable city. It is a city in transition within which there exists numerous developmental needs and opportunities. Many changes have become increasingly evident during the past 10 - 15 years. The population of the city reflects an increasing proportion of low-income individuals. The quality and quantity of available housing is declining. Employment in the manufacturing and retail sectors is on the decline. The ethnic characteristics of the "Traditional" neighborhoods are changing. At the same time, Newark has maintained its role as an insurance and financial center and is emerging as a center of government, transportation and higher education.<sup>4</sup>

Perhaps the image of Newark does much to foster its own demise. Newark, in spite of the existence of viable residential, commercial and industrial areas, is too often pictured as a dying city, lacking economic, social and physical vitality. This state of being clearly detracts from the city from all points of view, that is, physical, social, and economic. The key to an improved living environment will entail the changing of this image.<sup>5</sup>

Newark is divided into five wards, the North, Central, East, West and South Wards. Each ward is divided into neighborhoods. Newark has traditionally been a city of neighborhoods. Some have resulted from annexation, others from new development within the corporate limits or unique physical and/or social characteristics.

Presently, however, Newark's neighborhoods are experiencing similiar problems characteristic of older urban centers, The problems which the city now faces are the cumulative problems of its neighborhoods.

## OVERVIEW

In order to better understand the reasons behind the attitudes and opinions of the people of Newark's North Ward it is necessary to understand the background of the people which reside in the North Ward. That is, to understand them from a sociological, political and historical perspective.

The North Ward is primarily composed of "white ethnics" which are also called "dislocated" whites. The term "dislocated" pertains to the lower or middle class whites who neither share the fruits of middle class America nor are they the focal point for special projects. Most of these people have "extravagant fantasies" about the benefits that blacks and other minority groups get from governmental and private agencies.

The predominate nationality of the white ethnics in the North Ward is Italian-American. Mainly they are the third-generation of descendants from Italy, Italian immigration was at its highest from 1885 to 1924. These immigrants were tough, humble, hard-working people. They faced much hardship in the United States both socially and economically. The main reason for the departure from their homeland was primarily economic although they also came from a social system in Italy which was oppressive to the working class. It was from the working-class of small rural farming towns that the majority of Italian immigrants brought their social backgrounds. A background which had as one of it's characteristics a fear of authority represented by public institutions which included schools, churches and other institutions.

The following excerpt is taken from the Social Background of the Italo-American Child by Dr. Leonard Covello:

Most immigrants viewed the schools with suspicion if not outright hostility. The South Italian immigrants, for example, came from the villages in which schools had been only for the children of the upper class; their children would have been unwelcome had they attempted to send them. School was feared too, as a threat to the solidarity of the family; to the extent which Italo-Americans aspired to social and economic mobility, it was construed in terms of family rather than individual mobility. From the family's standpoint, the rebellious son or daughter was the one who insisted on staying in school, not the youngster who insisted on dropping out.<sup>6</sup>

Politics in the North Ward is a natural extension of how Italian-Americans view the world. The world is seen as a dangerous place where a prudent man gains as many powerful allies as possible against the legal establishment, the illegal dangers that can strike at any time and the economic status that dictates helping each other in a complex system of deals, family ties, associations and friendships. The fact that there is a risk in becoming involved in politics is fully understood and that is accepted as natural. However, there is a greater risk in not becoming involved, since men must have allies.

District leaders traditionally funnel into elected officials of their party requests for help in the form of "direct" links to city services. Thus instead of calling the appropriate city agency to repair a sidewalk, the North Warder whose friend and "ally" is a district leader, will call the district leader. The district leader informs the councilman who calls the appropriate agency.



This system reinforces the feeling among North Ward Residents that one must have powerful friends in order to survive in a hostile society.

The district leader will in turn call upon his friend to help at election time, pass out information and give his vote. Thus there is a system of interlocking favors which one must be prepared to, not only give a friend, but equally if not more important, must be willing to ask of a friend.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Italian Immigrants who settled in Newark resided mostly in the "old first ward" which today is included in the North Ward. That was Newark's "Little-Italy". For many years the people of the North Ward had always felt that their needs were not being met by the city government in the distribution of it's services.

In 1962 a social and political upheaval occurred in Newark. A coalition of a liberal Italian congressman and middle class blacks successfully challenged the entrenched Irish machine and took over City Hall. To the Italian-Americans of the North Ward, their day was at last at hand. The election victory was not looked upon as a coalition victory, which it certainly was, but rather as the victory of an Italian-American. Many young Italian-American professionals regarded this as an exciting time when at last Italians now have control and power in the City of Newark.

As the 1960's progressed the promises of the first and second Addonizio Administrations did not seem to bear out the earlier hope.

There was a rising consciousness in the city that the municipal government was corrupt, that the city's affairs were in a poor state and that the 1967 riots had focused on the ills of Newark.

Here was an immigrant Italian class, hardworking and politically active who had never reaped the spoils of the system to any large degree. Finally an Italian takes over the reins of what will later project the image of a dying city. When a younger group of educated, motivated and skilled Italians forge a group which can take advantage of decades of preparation, there is no field to play on. Newark is about to become a black city, one of the first in the country.

After the 1967 riots in Newark it became clear that the city was in deep trouble. The black vs white situation had deteriorated and key government documents dating from 1966 and from just after the riots would tell a story of deep urban blight, poor health conditions, corruption, and poor housing.

It was now realized that the future leadership in the city of Newark will be black and that life will be different for the whites who are left in the city.

In a run off, head on head situation with Gibson and Addonizio, Gibson wins the election and the truth of the matter sinks home. The Italian-American who never really got a slice of the American pie in Newark, is now in the minority in terms of population and in terms of power.

The single most influential person in the North Ward at the time is probably Anthony Imperiale. Imperiale emerged after the riots as a populist activist who champions the frustrated whites of the North Ward.

His rhetoric at the time is that whites are being discriminated against and that the blacks are taking everything. There is sufficient truth in this reasoning, however Imperiale has no counter and for a long time acted as a detriment to racial harmony in the city.

If the racial situation from 1967 to 1972 seemed bitter; it was to get worse in 1973 during the Kawaida Towers Dispute. This, however could have been the turning point in the social and political evolution of the North Ward as it is today and possibly how it will be in the future.

In the fall of 1972, Imamu Amiri Baraka, at the time the spiritual leader of the Temple of Kawaida which was a black nationalist group, had been granted federal funds to build a high-rise apartment building in Newark's North Ward. More specifically it was to be built in the middle of "white ethnic" neighborhood.

The argument of the "white ethnic" community was:

1. The area cannot handle a high rise apartment complex because of the environmental impact.
2. The schools in that area are not large enough.
3. With all the vacant land in the Central and South Wards, why is this building being built in this small and congested area?

In an answer to the above it is the opinion of most North Ward residents that the entire Kawaida Towers Project was a vicious and malicious form of mass block-busting, that is, an attempt by Baraka to "break up" the Italian community. It is this writer's opinion that the councilman at that time, Frank Megaro, was extremely ineffective as a community leader. It must be added that the Kawaida Project was approved by the city council in early 1972 and at the same time granted a tax abatement. .

Councilman Frank Megaro charged that the council had been misled by a "fraudulent or at the very least highly suspect" application which did not include Baraka's name.

One must wonder when urban planners will start learning from their mistakes and put an end to all high-rise construction in cities. It has been proven by many urban sociologists that high-rise apartment buildings do not possess any form of community cohesion. The impact of the Columbus Projects in Newark's "Old First Ward " (part of the North Ward) is a good example. Built by the Carlin Administration in 1955, the Columbus projects consisted of eight huge twenty-story high rise apartment buildings. What that project did was bring a large mass of low-income people into an Italian middle class and working class neighborhood. Today the neighborhood possesses the highest crime rate in the North Ward, the buildings are havens for crime, the other streets of the neighborhood are blighted and the schools of the neighborhood are in a crisis situation. The Italian-Americans in that neighborhood gradually left the city.

After months and months of picketing at the proposed Kawaida construction site the project was eventually defeated. It was defeated by the strength of people struggling together against an oppressive force. This was the major turning point in the stabilization of our community. It is my opinion that had the project have been built it would have led to extreme racial conflict throughout the North Ward which would have precipitated "white flight" from the North Ward and thus the community would not have been as strong as it is today. Hopefully the North Ward will never again be threatened by large-scale blockbusting either by real estate agents or by oppressive political forces. However should we be subjected to that

again, the community, which is now stronger than ever before, will rise up and defeat it through a unified coalition of concerned citizens working together.

In the public opinion survey section of this study there is one major topic pertaining to city services that I did not ask a question about. That topic is Education. The main reason is that the majority of "white ethnics" residing in the North Ward send their children to parochial schools. The main reason for this is the poor image as well as poor actual quality of education of the Newark Public School System. To ask a question about the quality of education in Newark would certainly bring a very negative response so therefore I purposely omitted any question of that type in my survey questionnaire. However, education cannot be avoided in discussing life in the North Ward because it was a series of confrontations between blacks and "white ethnics" which created the school situation at Barringer High School, the only high school in the North Ward, to be in the situation it is in today.

Barringer High School was for many years the high school in Newark which had the highest amount of Italian-American youth. In 1964 a new school building was erected which was twice as large as the old one. Because of the increased size of the New Barringer High School the city changed the boundaries of the school districts. As a result of this the amount of black youth at Barringer tripled. In 1963 Barringer was about 10% black. In 1965 it was 32% black. Racial confrontations in the form of fights and riots took place over the next eight years (1965-1973). In the minds of the North Ward Residents the school was being taken over by blacks.

Many did not know how to confront the issue without taking a racist stance. Many racist views were expressed but somehow they were ineffective. Today the racial and ethnic composition of Barringer, the only high school of the North Ward, is:

67% Black  
25% Hispanic  
8% White Ethnic

The situation at Barringer over the past fifteen years has caused many North Ward Residents to flee from the city. In looking back on the Barringer situation perhaps it might have been best for the city to maintain a balanced school population city wide, that is, not to overflow a school with blacks being brought in from areas in the city which previously did not send it's children to Barringer. At Barringer High School today you have a situation which is unhealthy in an educational sense but a situation similiar to that in many, if not most urban schools. The majority of teachers and administrators are grossly insensitive to the social and psychological needs of the students which now attend the North Ward's lone high school.

Over the years the North Ward has remained predominately "white ethnic" despite efforts by block-busting real estate agents to change it for selfish reasons and by others to change it for political reasons. However one group of people, whose influx into the North Ward is growing by leaps and bounds, who have not played an important role in the past history of the North Ward but may do so in the future are the Hispanics.

Demographers who work for the Department of Urban Affairs in Washington claim that by 1990 Hispanic People will be the largest minority group in total number in the United States. The term Hispanic includes Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Latin American People. They are the new immigrants. How will this affect the future of the North Ward? That will be determined in the future. At this writing, Hispanics appear to be politically apathetic but however as their numbers grow they may some day form a coalition and seriously threaten the present power structure in the North Ward and the city also.

In a historical overview of the North Ward the names of the two people who have emerged as tremendous assets to the development of neighborhood cohesion must be discussed. The first is Anthony Carrino, the present Councilman representing the North Ward on the City Council. Carrino is a former teacher and policeman. He has always been actively involved in the community, particularly concerning youth activities. It is this writer's opinion that he has accomplished more positive goals for the North Ward in his first three years as Councilman (he was elected in 1974) than any other councilman previous to him. Among some of those accomplishments are; better paved streets and sidewalks, the development of a social service organization which is only in its beginning stages but has great potential, an increase in community cohesion due to meetings which take place at his Bloomfield Avenue Office, and improved housing in certain areas of the ward because of a concerted effort on his part to prevent redlinning practices by banks. Anthony

Carrino has both the ability and the dynamic public image to be the man who can lead the North Ward to brighter days.

The second person that must be discussed is Stephen Aduabato. At one time a teacher at Broadway Junior High in the North Ward, Aduabato was elected Democratic Chairman of the North Ward in 1969. Aduabato begins talking with his associates about the changing nature of the city, how the future leadership will be black and that life will be different for the whites who are left in the city. Aduabato's group seeks for a way to positively interact with the black administration and help the working-class whites in the city. In August of 1971, Aduabato founded the North Ward Educational and Cultural Center which he described as a non-partisan social movement that will provide an alternative voice for the white urban residents, initially those in the North Ward. Aduabato was born and raised in the North Ward and over the years has watched the anger and frustration of many of its citizens grow into "defensive emotionalism" in recent years. Today the North Ward Educational and Cultural Center provides services to the community such as: Early Childhood Development, Senior Citizen Programs, Freshman year of Essex County College, Recreation, Secretarial Training and High School Equivalency Training. The N.W.E.C.C. is supported by both government and private funding. Monsignor Geno Baroni of the Dept. of Urban Ethnic Affairs in Washington D.C. played an important role in the development of this social service organization which has as its main goal neighborhood stabilization through the improvement of the quality of life in that neighborhood.



## RESEARCH DESIGN

Neighborhoods for planning purposes, are grouped into planning areas. The actual delineation of the city's neighborhoods was made by a careful examination of man-made barriers such as railroads, highways, or major thoroughfares, major parks and land uses.<sup>7</sup> The North Ward is divided into four planning areas: North Broadway, Mt. Pleasant/Seventh Ave., Roseville, and Forest Hills. This survey was concentrated mainly in the traditional ethnic neighborhoods of the Roseville and Forest Hills Sections. The residents of these two communities are predominately from "white ethnic" minority groups. They are mostly the descendants of immigrants from Europe in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century.

Newark is ranked 35th in population of U.S. cities by the 1970 census. At present, Newark has approximately 360,000 people. The North Ward has approximately 97,000 residents. More specifically the population of the two planning areas that was surveyed is approximately 37,000.

This survey was conducted through distribution at public and private meetings and community affairs which took place in the month of October of 1977. Among the meetings in which surveys were distributed were; the North Ward Property Owners Meeting, the N.W.E.C.C. Senior Citizens Program, the Columbus Day Committee Meeting and other public meetings in the North Ward.

Approximately 400 residents of the Roseville and Forest Hills Communities in Newark's North Ward answered the ten questions in this survey. This project was undertaken with approval of North Ward Councilman Anthony Carrino. Mr. Thomas Matthews, the councilman's top aide

has given me much assistance in the form of reference books, planning guides and the much needed statistical information. Two other people that have been of great assistance to me in helping me successfully complete this project are George Wilson, the president of the North Ward Property Owners' Association, and Frances Aduato who is the co-ordinator of Senior Citizens Programs at the N.W.E.C.C.

The North Ward has the largest concentration of Senior Citizens in the State of New Jersey. As a result, I separated ninety-two questionnaires that were distributed in the Senior Citizen programs at the North Ward Educational and Cultural Center and recorded the feedback from this sampling. Since the overall survey was not sampled according to age distribution, this separate sampling allowed me the opportunity to get direct feedback from Senior Citizens. It also provided me <sup>(the opportunity)</sup> to add this important dimension to my study; a dimension which was not in the original proposal.

The following is a copy of the questionnaire that was distributed randomly throughout the Forest Hills and Roseville Sections of Newark's North Ward.

Please answer the following questions. Do not write your name. Circle one answer only.

1. How do you rate conditions such as housing, medical services, recreation etc. for our Senior Citizens in the North Ward?

Very Good                      Average                      Poor

2. Do you feel that it's safe to walk in your neighborhood at night?

Yes                                      No

3. Do you think you will be moving out of the city within the next 3 years.

Yes

No

4. How do you rate the recreation facilities provided by the city for the North Ward? (keep in mind-Branch Brook is run by the County)

Very Good

Average

Poor

5. How do you rate the city services in the North Ward; such as, Police Sanitation, Fire Services, and Health Services?

Very Good

Average

Poor

6. Have you or any member of your family made us of any of our community centers; such as. The The North Ward Educational Cultural Center or The Lombardi Memorial Center (Residents for Community Action)?

Yes

No

7. Do you do any of your major shopping in Downtown Newark?

Yes

No

8. Do you feel the City Government is meeting the needs of all the people in the city?

Yes

No

9. How do you rate Newark's Government?

Very Good

Average

Poor

10. What income bracket do you consider yourself in?

High

Middle

Low

## FINDINGS

TABLE I

QUESTION: In what income bracket do you consider yourself?

OVERALL DISTRIBUTION			SENIOR CITIZENS		
High	18	4%	High	1	1%
Middle	307	68%	Middle	75	81%
Low	126	28%	Low	17	18%

The main purpose of this question was to divide the feedback from the questionnaires into three categories, high income, middle income and low income groups. Each particular question's feedback will be divided into one of three groups according to the respective income bracket that the North Ward resident considered himself to be included in.

According to the 1970 Census the median income for all families and individuals was \$6,191. The effective buying income per average family in 1974 was \$7,622. The total number of families below the poverty level (1970) was 16,877 (18.4%). Among this total included 9% of the "white ethnic" population in the city of Newark.<sup>8</sup>

In any survey pertaining to urban community life there are questions asked which deal with the social and economic conditions of the urbanite. In dealing with these two conditions, which many sociologists say are the main problems in the urban environment (not the physical conditions) there may be some correlation between the income level of the resident and whether he answers positively or negatively.

Lovrich and Taylor (Denver, 1976) divided their sampling according to Ethnicity as well as income level. However, they concluded that socioeconomic characteristics, as represented in family income differentials, do not have a significant effect on

five of the six dimensions of performance evaluation used in their survey.<sup>9</sup>

This survey was not divided according to ethnic group because the majority of people questioned were white ethnics. Whether or not there is a correlation in the income level of the resident and his response to the questions will be determined by examining each of the other nine questions separately. They will be grouped into the three income categories.

TABLE II

QUESTION: Do you think you will be moving out of the city within the next three years?

OVERALL SAMPLING			OVERALL (not senior citizens)			SENIOR CITIZENS		
YES	101	22%	YES	87	24%	YES	14	15%
NO	350	78%	NO	271	76%	NO	79	85%
HIGH INCOME			MIDDLE INCOME			LOW INCOME		
YES	7	39%	YES	71	23%	YES	23	18%
NO	11	61%	NO	236	77%	NO	103	82%

Suburban flight is not a newly developed phenomenon. It did not begin in the past ten or twenty or even thirty years ago. It began in the mid to late nineteenth century as a by-product of the industrial revolution. At first the wealthy or "elite" moved away from the center of the city in order to get away from factories and the people who worked in factories. They moved to the outskirts of the city or to another neighborhood in the city usually located on higher ground or elevation.

The Industrial Revolution in the United States brought about the economic need for the immigrants. The immigrants worked (or rather were exploited) in the new factories and resided in the cities.

The immigrant was poor and thus could not afford to travel a great distance to work. The wealthy people moved out of the city to get away from the drabby-looking factories and also the immigrants and their alien culture.

This pattern of "fleeing from the center of the city" discussed above took place in most major cities in the Northeastern United States. The Forest Hills section of the North Ward is an excellent example.

The Forest Hill section occupies a square mile of the city's predominantly Italian North Ward, with boundaries extending roughly from Mt. Prospect Avenue to the east, Branch Brook Park to the west, Bloomfield Avenue to the south and just beyond Heller Parkway to the North. It was originally settled and developed by the English, Germans and Irish in the late Nineteenth Century. There was an exclusive private school on Mt. Prospect Avenue called the Prospect Hill Country Day School which was known for the fact that it didn't enroll students of Italian descent.

As the Twentieth Century progressed the majority of the European Immigrants and their sons and daughters emerged into the middle-class socially as well as economically. At the same time black people began their mass migration <sup>(from the South and Immigration from the Caribbean Islands)</sup> from the Caribbean Islands was increasing. This started taking place after the second world war. It is at this point in time that "suburban" flight became known as "white" flight. Newark has often been described as a textbook example of urban blight and white flight.

There were many events in Newark's recent history which precipitated or increased the rate of "white flight" from the city and particularly the North Ward. The first was 1967 riots. The insurrection or racial rebellion caused many white North Warders to leave

the city. The second was the election of Mayor Gibson, the first black Mayor of a major Northeastern City. Many North Warders developed an attitude that Newark would eventually become an all black city and that the whites remaining in the city would be excluded from receiving any quality services and thus have to accept second-class treatment from the City Administration. It is these two major events of 1967 and 1970 that have caused many whites to flee from the city of Newark.

Another event which caused many North Warders to either flee from the city or at least move into "safer" parts of the North Ward was the construction of the Columbus Homes in the "old first ward". I do not list this as a major reason for "white flight" because many residents who left the "old first ward" moved into the Roseville or Forest Hills section of the North Ward.

In the overview of this study I discussed the Kawaida Towers affair. It should be noted in this section on suburban or "white flight" that had Kawaida Towers have been built it may have caused a mass exodus of "white ethnics" from the North Ward to the suburbs. It must also be mentioned that since the Kawaida project was officially stopped the rate of white people leaving the North Ward has greatly declined. Since 1975 (the past two years) there has not been any decline in the "white ethnic" population of the North Ward and that could certainly be a reason for optimism.

A sizable number of surveys have asked people to indicate the type of community in which they would ideally prefer to live. The response, at least among Americans, is loud and clear: the smaller the better. For example, a Gallup survey conducted in 1972 asked a representative American sample: "If you could live anywhere you

wanted to, would you prefer a city, suburban area, small town, or farm?" the answers were:

CITY	13%
SUBURBS	31%
SMALL	32%
TOWNS	
FARM	23%

Even among those currently living there, only twenty per cent preferred cities. A 1969 Harris survey found that two-thirds of big-city residents hoped to live elsewhere by 1979. Moreover, the proportion preferring cities has dropped off precipitously since the mid -1960's. In 1966, 22 percent preferred cities; six years later, only 13 percent. Apparently the real "urban crises" have had their effects in this realm as in many others.<sup>10</sup>

The following excerpt is taken from an article by Neal R. Peirce, a syndicated columnist for the Washington Post. The theme of the article is that the inner cities of America are ready to make a comeback physically, socially and economically.

The inner cities of America are poised for a stunning comeback. The recovery from decades of middle-class desertion, housing abandonment, and intolerable levels of poverty and crime will not be smooth or tidy. And there surely will be backwaters of urban desperation for years to come.

But talks last month with a cross-section of the nation's mayors, plus grass roots reports from many cities, present solid evidence that the critical mass needed for city recovery has finally fallen into place.

The chief ingredients are an accelerating return of the middle-class to the cities, the energy crisis, the explosion of the post-World War II baby boom into the new household market, changing lifestyles, and mounting dissatisfaction with suburban life - especially among young people.



All this is complemented by the out-of-sight cost of single family homes, the economies of restoration over new construction, shifts in federal policy away from the pro suburb bias of the last three decades, the strong and growing national neighborhood movement, and a pronounced decline in urban crime.

The net result: a new psychology of hope in the city that breeds fresh investment and confidence. 11

TABLE III

QUESTION: Do you feel that it's safe to walk in your neighborhood at night?

OVERALL SAMPLING			OVERALL (not senior citizens)			SENIOR CITIZENS		
YES	72	16%	YES	57	16%	YES	15	16%
NO	379	84%	NO	301	84%	NO	78	84%
HIGH INCOME			MIDDLE INCOME			LOW INCOME		
YES	3	17%	YES	51	17%	YES	18	14%
NO	15	83%	NO	256	83%	NO	108	86%

The sampling of this survey was not separated into three age groups as it was separated into three income groups. If the age levels of the participants were distinguished into a category of 18-30 there would have been a marked correlation between this age level and the increase of yes answers to this question. The reason is simply that many young people, particularly single people, would feel safe at night walking the streets but on the other hand they would be quick to reply; " I wouldn't want my parents walking around here at night, especially my mother". This question is probably the only question of my ten-question survey that will have a stringent correlation between young and middle-aged residents and his response.

An analysis of crime statistics in the North Ward immediately identifies the youthful offender as a major contributor. Many city-wide anti-crime programs totally neglected the unique needs of the North Ward community. The crime situation has added to other numerous problems facing the North Ward residents and has substantially contributed to a long list of reasons given for the migration from the city to the suburbs.

Law enforcement officials in Newark's North Ward report that the principal source of crimes involves juveniles, ages 17 and under, and young adults 18 to 25 years of age. Over 50% of the stranger to stranger crimes, including robbery, rape, homicide, atrocious assault and battery and breaking-and entering, are committed by members of various street gangs and by unaffiliated "corner youth". It is the prevailing opinion of law enforcement officials that the incidence of serious crimes involving youths will continue to grow if efforts are not accelerated to curtail the problem

According to criminologists there tends to be a high correlation between the amount of youth crime and the rate of truancy; percentage of high-school drop-outs, youth unemployment, gangs, drug abuse, family disorders and the lack of recreation activities. These conditions exist in the North Ward and according to the experts are the major factors in the spiralling youth crime rate.

Further exasperating the situation, other surveys have indicated that the target population, which is the youth of the North Ward, has been systematically excluded from servicing programs conducted by private organizations and government agencies at all levels. Without the appropriate services the conditions responsible for crime among youth cannot be alleviated.<sup>12</sup>

Most law enforcement officials would agree that senior citizens are attractive targets for perspective assailants. The North Ward of Newark has the highest concentration of senior citizens in the state. This situation has led to a marked increase in muggings and purse-snatchings in the North Ward. In many cases the perpetrators have been youths and the victims have been senior citizens. Perhaps the best possible remedy of the youth crime problem is a community program conducted by people who are sensitive to the culture which prevails in the area and to which most current and potential offenders in the North Ward belong. This writer believes that the only viable method of reducing crime in the area is through well-designed programs geared to providing positive recreational, educational and training activities for potential offenders before such criminal acts are committed.

In the January 1975 issue of Harper's Magazine there was an article by Arthur M. Louis entitled "The Worst American City". The research on crime statistics showed Newark to be at the bottom. The statistics, from the F.B.I. files were completed after 1972. Newark had the worst average rankings in the three crime categories which were: robbery, rape, and manslaughter.<sup>13</sup> Police statistics have indicated an improvement over the past five years.

TABLE IV

QUESTION: How do you rate conditions such as housing, medical services, recreation etc. for our senior citizens in the North Ward?

OVERALL SAMPLING			OVERALL (not senior citizens)			SENIOR CITIZENS		
VERY GOOD	54	12%	VERY GOOD	33	9 %	VERY GOOD	21	23%
AVERAGE	261	58%	AVERAGE	193	54%	AVERAGE	68	73%
POOR	136	30%	POOR	133	37%	POOR	3	4%
HIGH INCOME			MIDDLE INCOME			LOW INCOME		
VERY GOOD	2	11%	VERY GOOD	37	12%	VERY GOOD	15	12%
AVERAGE	4	22%	AVERAGE	187	61%	AVERAGE	70	56%
POOR	12	67%	POOR	83	27%	POOR	41	32%

The North Ward of Newark, as I have previously stated, has the largest concentration of senior citizens in the state of New Jersey. The City of Newark has the largest percentage of elderly of the fifty largest cities in the United States. Eighteen per cent (18%) are below the poverty level. Twenty-two per cent (22%) are living in public housing. Newark, according to some senior citizen federal grant proposals, is said to have an uncommonly high death rate for senior citizens when compared to other large New Jersey cities.

In January of 1973 Beth Israel Hospital in Newark with the help of an army reserve unit undertook an unusual medical screening of 211 senior citizens from the city of Newark. The project initiated by Dr. Arthur S. Leon of Beth Israel showed that 155 of those screened or seventy-three (73%) per cent of the entire group, had problems serious enough to warrant follow-up medical treatment in one or another of the hospital's clinics. A conclusion of the screening is that elderly persons who live in public housing on subsistence incomes have little or no access to the medical-care system. Three principal reasons that were cited were the lack of money, difficulty in getting transportation to visit a doctor ( a problem aggravated by many physicians moving their offices from the inner city to the

suburbs) and a reluctance on the part of senior citizens to see a doctor for fear of learning that they have an illness they prefer not to face.<sup>14</sup>

In evaluating the conditions mentioned in the question, (medical services, recreation and housing) it must be mentioned that in the January 1975 issue of Harper's Magazine Arthur M. Louis evaluated the fifty largest cities in the United States according to twenty-four major categories. Newark placed in the bottom five in nineteen of these twenty-four major categories. It was dead last in nine of them. It was rated last out of fifty cities in recreational facilities; a question which was based on the park and recreational acreage per 10,000 residents. In health Newark was labeled the sickliest city. The health question was based on infant mortality rate, rate of people to medical practitioners, hospital beds per residents, and deaths from influenza and pneumonia per 100,000 residents. In housing it was in the bottom five of the fifty largest U.S. cities.<sup>15</sup>

With all of these facts in mind one must wonder how much worse conditions are for senior citizens since they are usually in a low income bracket and there is usually a correlation between income level and living conditions.

In the question on income bracket it is interesting to note that eighty-one per cent (81%) of the senior citizens questioned chose "middle" This is very misleading because these particularly senior citizens, which were participants in the N.W.E.C.C. senior citizen programs, are mostly collecting social security and it is

known fact that social security does not place people in the "middle income" bracket. It may be a working class characteristic to hide the fact that one is in a "low income" group. The majority of these senior citizens in the sampling were European immigrants or early second-generation Americans.

In an interview with the Newark Star-Ledger in May of 1975 Stephen Adubato had this to say about the problems of senior citizens in Newark's North Ward: "Our most pressing need, at this time is for space, both for living and recreation. It is most unfortunate that many of our senior citizens will die before they even realize the opportunity to acquire a low-cost apartment where they can live out their lives in dignity and comfort. When you consider that close to a quarter of the 17 per cent group are families headed by a person 65 years of age or older, the issue of senior citizens' housing at low cost becomes equivalent to survival". 16

We can conclude our analysis of this question pertaining to senior citizens' conditions by saying that conditions for senior citizens must be improved both in the North Ward and throughout the entire city. The recreational facilities are poor, the medical services are poor and although there are some federally funded housing projects in operation there is still a large need for improvement in that area. The future of the North Ward will not be bright if our senior citizens cannot live their retirement years in total comfort and with honor.

TABLE V

QUESTION: How do you rate the recreation facilities provided  
by the city for the North Ward?  
(Keep in mind Branch Brook Park is run by Essex County)

OVERAL SAMPLING			OVERALL (not senior citizens)			SENIOR CITIZENS		
VERY GOOD	50	11%	VERY GOOD	14	4%	VERY GOOD	36	39%
AVERAGE	152	34%	AVERAGE	103	29%	AVERAGE	49	53%
POOR	249	55%	POOR	241	67%	POOR	8	8%
HIGH INCOME			MIDDLE INCOME			LOW INCOME		
VERY GOOD	4	22%	VERY GOOD	37	12%	VERY GOOD	9	7%
AVERAGE	5	28%	AVERAGE	100	33%	AVERAGE	47	37%
POOR	9	50%	POOR	170	55%	POOR	70	56%

According to an article by Arthur M. Louis in the January 1975 issue of Harper's Magazine, Newark is rated last out of the fifty largest cities in the United States in the area of recreational facilities supplied by the city government. The question was based on the measurement of park and recreation acreage per residents. Newark had 3.6 square acres per 10,000 residents. It trailed New Orleans by a wide margin (New Orleans placed 49th with 7.5 square acres per 10,000 residents). The top spot in this category went to Dallas, Texas which had 374.2 square acres per 10,000 residents. The article went on to state that: "If the entire population of Newark were to spill into the parks one sunny Sunday, each resident would have to confine himself to an area roughly four feet by four feet. That might be enough for picnicking, or for quiet contemplation, but it would rule out a game of catch, or even vigorous gestures. Statistics on park and recreation space were supplied by the National Park Association, a private organization in Arlington, Virginia.<sup>17</sup>

An employee of the Department of Recreation and Parks in the City of Newark who wanted to keep his name anonymous said: "One of the most positive indicators of Newark's resurgence in the past ten years is the attention paid to and money spent on providing its citizens with new or refurbished recreation facilities and parklands. In 1967 the city spent \$1.36 per person out of its Municipal Budget for parks and recreation. In 1977 it is spending \$13.00 per person which, accounting for inflation, is the equivalent of \$7.22 per person ten years ago. In either case, it is a substantial increase. In the past four years it has built, rehabilitated, refurbished or has in planning stages more recreational facilities and areas than it had in the previous 30 year period".

The Recreation Department official then went on to show a chart of the improvement in recreation and parks in the past ten years (since 1967). In the first category were listed the facilities "completed and in use". There were three in the South Ward, One in the West Ward, and one in the East Ward. There were no new parks completed and in use in the North Ward over the past ten years! In the second category were listed the facilities "under construction". There was only one listed and it was located in the Central Ward. In the third category were listed six facilities and this category was entitled "Design Completed". Two of the six facilities in this group were located in the North Ward. One was new, Broadway Park which is adjacent to Broadway Elementary and Junior High School, the other was merely a proposal to improve an existing facility, St. Benedict's Field in a white ethnic neighborhood of the North Ward.



At this writing, none of the proposals for the two North Ward Parks have had ground broken.

Nathaniel Washington, a former recreation planner for the City of Philadelphia was named recreation director in 1972. He was the first recreation director the City of Newark has ever had. In his first drive to revamp the city's antiquated recreation department he reported to the Star-Ledger that "at least twenty-five men in the department have been found physically unable to perform their duties by the city doctor and will be terminated and pensioned". Among those mentioned were former Central Ward Councilman Irvine Turner, who was found medically unfit to stand trial on conspiracy and extortion charges but has continued on the old bath and pools pay-roll.<sup>18</sup>

One of the major high school sports facilities in the city is Schools Stadium, which is located on Bloomfield Avenue, the "main street" of the North Ward.

The conditions of this stadium are disgraceful. North Ward Councilman Anthony Carrino criticized the city in regards to the poor conditions of Schools Stadium. In a letter to Superintendent of Schools, Stanley Taylor on August 11, 1974, the Councilman said that he attended a drum and bugle corps and was "embarrassed" by what he saw. Carrino said "the wooden seats are rotted to the point splinters and torn clothes are the order of the day. The lack of lighting gave the audience just enough clues that there was a show being performed"<sup>19</sup>

Conditions at Newark's Schools Stadium have not improved three

years later. Only token improvements have been made by the city. Poor recreational facilities in the city have been a definite factor in the decline of Newark High School Baseball teams according to one long-time Baseball coach who has been coaching in Newark for over twenty years.

In the senior citizen sampling for this question on recreation in the North Ward there is a marked increase in positive answers. This could only be attributed to the fact that the senior citizens are not recreation minded or that this particular group of senior citizens does have good recreation which is provided by the North Ward Educational and Cultural Center. It certainly does not take a pessimistic person to realize that recreation for people of all ages provided by the City of Newark is terrible. Recreational Facilities in the North Ward are, as the majority of the sampling stated; poor.

TABLE VI

QUESTION: How do you rate the city services in the North Ward such as police, sanitation, fire services, and health services?

OVERALL SAMPLING			OVERALL (not senior citizens)			SENIOR CITIZENS		
VERY GOOD	62	14%	VERY GOOD	35	10%	VERY GOOD	27	29%
AVERAGE	287	64%	AVERAGE	223	62%	AVERAGE	64	69%
POOR	102	22%	POOR	100	28%	POOR	2	2%
HIGH INCOME			MIDDLE INCOME			LOW INCOME		
VERY GOOD	7	39%	VERY GOOD	42	14%	VERY GOOD	13	10%
AVERAGE	5	28%	AVERAGE	201	65%	AVERAGE	81	64%
POOR	6	33%	POOR	64	21%	POOR	32	26%

The results of this question, as was the case with many other questions, showed a marked deviation in the senior citizen sampling in the way of a more positive response. There is no solid explanation to substantiate this positive feedback from the senior citizens.

Newark is the sickliest city in the country according to Arthur M. Louis in the January 1975 issue of Harper's Magazine. Most of Louis' statistics on health came from Vital Statistics of the United States, a multi-volume work put out each year by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The four statistical charts which evaluated the overall health of a city were: Deaths from influenza and pneumonia, infant deaths, ratio of people to medical practitioners, and hospital beds per 10,000 residents. Based on the four comparisons by Louis, Newark stood out as the sickliest city - by an unhealthy margin over Detroit. <sup>20</sup>

Among the health service needs of the North Ward which are not being adequately provided by the city are: mental health, venereal disease, clinic consultation and clinics, emergency medical services and health facilities planning tailored to these specific needs of

North Ward Residents. It must be made known to the reader that many residents made comments on the questionnaire indicating that health care in the North Ward is much worse than the other city services which were, inquired about in this question.

Probably one of the most highly rated institutions in the city of Newark is its fire department. The following is an excerpt from a news release from the City of Newark Fire Department entitled "Newark Fire Defenses Rated Class A". This was released on May 21, 1975:

Newark Fire Director John P. Caulfield and Fire Chief Joseph M. Redden today announced the results of the latest grading of the fire defenses of Newark by the Insurance Services Offices (successor to the National Board of Fire Underwriters).

The City of Newark fire defense grading received the least deficiency points in the history of the Newark Fire Department, and continues to enjoy a rating second to no city in the entire country. The total deficiency points were at an all time low of 763 as compared to 895 in the last full survey. No city in the entire country enjoys a better rating and 44 communities in the entire country enjoy as high a rating out of the hundreds of thousands of communities which are graded.

Caulfield remarked that "one of the most important ingredients in achieving this high classification was the type of fine, dedicated and efficient firefighters who make up the Newark Fire Department. Without their dedication and devotion to duty, the high rating we enjoy could not have been achieved."

Both the Director and the Chief credited much of the improvement to the modern training center established last year which enabled us to have men trained under actual fire conditions, the acquisition of numerous pieces of firefighting apparatus, improved firefighting methods, a better communication system and the modernization of fire stations.

Chief Redden commented: "The redeployment of manpower which was inaugurated in the latter part of November of 1974 made possible the better utilization of manpower on the fire scene. This, in turn, improved firefighting methods and made for a more efficient fire operation. Consequently, we are putting more men on the fire scene." 21

Police services in the North Ward have greatly improved over the past two years, this is the result of the work of Councilman Carrino, a former police officer who is presently on a leave of absence from the force. There have been an added number of patrol cars on duty patrolling the North Ward as a result of the Councilman and other concerned citizens. For many years the North Ward has always had the least amount of active police cars on patrol. Now we have the same amount as the other wards of the city.

In the spring of 1976, Carrino and hundreds of other North Ward residents demonstrated in front of the North Ward home of Police Director Hubert Williams for the assignment of additional patrol cars. The fact that our requests were honored points to the strong community cohesion which is present in the North Ward today. The Newark Police Department, like all police departments in major American Cities, does have its problems, but however, it can be said that it certainly is not one of the city's weaknesses.

The last service in which North Ward residents were asked to rate as part of this question was sanitation. The Division of Sanitation is a part of the Department of Public Works which provides basic services vital to everyday life in the City of Newark. The Department of Sanitation is responsible for street

cleaning, refuse collection and disposal and snow removal. There was not much information that could be used to evaluate the city's sanitation services to the North Ward. Many suburban friends of mine have indicated that sanitation service in Newark is just as good as in their respective suburban towns.

In 1972, after 40 years of three-times-a -week garbage collection, a large section of the city was given twice-a-week service. Parts of the North Ward were affected by that cutback. Mayor Kenneth Gibson said the reductions in the collections "is just another evidence of the financial crush in which Newark finds itself".<sup>22</sup> Today the entire city has twice-a-week garbage disposal service.

#### TABLE VII

QUESTION: Have you or any member of your family made use of any of our Community Centers such as the North Ward Educational and Cultural Center or Residents for Community Action?

OVERALL SAMPLING			MIDDLE INCOME			LOW INCOME		
YES	129	36%	YES	77	33%	YES	46	43%
NO	229	64%	NO	154	67%	NO	62	57%

The sampling of this particular question did not include the special senior citizen sampling because the senior citizen sampling was distributed at one of the above mentioned social service institutions, the North Ward Educational and Cultural Center.

Many social service organizations in Newark and other larger urban centers are geared toward working with mainly Blacks and Hispanics. This is very true here in Newark. Most agencies and institutions have programs which are either not available to the North Ward Resident or lack the sensitivity in dealing with the

"white ethnic". Before 1970 there were no major social service organizations that North Ward Residents could go to for assistance. Today there are two, the North Ward Educational and Cultural Center which has been operating since 1971 and has programs ranging from child-care to senior citizens' programs, and the Residents for Community Action, which has some programs in operation while it awaits federal-funding and has great potential.

The North Ward Educational and Cultural Center, located at 346 Mt. Prospect Avenue, was developed by Steve Adubato for the purpose of providing social services to the "white urban ethnic" initially those in the North Ward. The N.W.E.C.C. is funded by Federal and Private Funds. Among the services that the N.W.E.C.C. provides are: early childhood development, youth enrichment, Senior Citizens Programs, a neighborhood branch of Essex County College, Recreation, Health Services, College Counseling, Remedial Education and Cultural Awareness.

Residents for Community Action located on Bloomfield Avenue in a building dedicated as the "Vince Lombardi Memorial Center", is in its early stages of development at this writing. Anthony Carrino, the North Ward Councilman, is the founder of this new social service institution which is presently awaiting government funding. They have some very good senior citizen programs at this center now. The potential is there and it is likely that they too will develop into a great social service organization servicing the North Ward.

The low income sampling showed a slight increase in "yes" answers (10%). This could be attributed to the fact that low

income people have a greater need for the services provided by these community institutions. In any case the involvement of these social service institutions in Newark's North Ward are a tremendous asset to both the North Ward and the entire City of Newark. Their main purpose is to stabilize the neighborhood by improving the quality of life in the neighborhood.

The North Ward Educational and Cultural Center has been used as a model for neighborhood stabilization programs and cities from all over the United States send community representatives into use it as a case study to develop their own type of neighborhood preservation and stabilization programs.

TABLE VIII

QUESTION: Do you do any of your major shopping in Downtown Newark?

OVERALL SAMPLING			OVERALL (not senior citizens)			SENIOR CITIZENS		
YES	182	40%	YES	121	34%	YES	61	65%
NO	269	60%	NO	237	66%	NO	32	35%
HIGH INCOME			MIDDLE INCOME			LOW INCOME		
YES	5	28%	YES	128	42%	YES	49	39%
NO	13	72%	NO	179	58%	NO	77	61%

Downtown Newark was at one time a shoppers' paradise. However since the 1967 riots there has been a great reluctance by middle-class people to shop downtown. The emergence of suburban malls in the late 60's and early 70's, the lack of free and safe parking facilities in downtown Newark, and the higher crime rate in downtown Newark are all detrimental factors to the downtown economy and the economy of the entire city. Currently there are plans for mini-malls in the different wards of the city. These



ventures, most of which are in the blueprint stage and others of which are near completion (West Ward) will be an asset to the city in the form of increased ratables as well as being convenient to the city's residents.

A thorough research in the New Jersey Room of the Newark Public Library has indicated that there is no data available on the social, ethnic or economic characteristics of shoppers in Downtown Newark either before the 1967 riots or in the past ten years. Therefore, I have absolutely no study to compare my findings on this topic with. The most relevant factors pertaining to the decline of Downtown Newark are discussed under other questions that were asked in this survey. Those factors are: the overall image of the city which was discussed in tables 9 and 10, and the crime statistics which were discussed in table 3. I and many others seem to believe that an improvement in the overall image of the City of Newark and a drastic reduction in the crime rate would tremendously improve the economy of Downtown Newark.

There is one group of people in the North Ward that does its major shopping Downtown. They are the Senior Citizens of this "white ethnic" population. On this question there was a tremendous difference in the feedback of the overall sampling and the senior citizen sampling. The factors contributing to this include the facts that:

- (1) Most Senior Citizens do not drive cars.
- (2) Many are unfamiliar with Suburban Shopping Malls that have evolved in the past decade.
- (3) Shopping Downtown has always been an enjoyable past-time and tradition for the Senior Citizen.
- (4) Public Service Transport of New Jersey now offers Senior Citizen Discounts on buses.

Downtown - where the biggest and best stores, offices and entertainment facilities are usually concentrated - has traditionally been a common ground in America. No matter how firmly surrounding residential areas have been divided among ethnic, racial and socio-economic groups, Downtown has been for everybody. But its status as nobody's special turf appears to be changing. This is the case in the City of Chicago. This city, with its long rigidly segregated housing patterns, now seems on the verge of becoming the first U.S. Metropolis with two centers, one predominantly for whites, the other mainly for blacks and Hispanics. <sup>23</sup>

For years Chicago's Loop was one of the world's legendary downtowns. The development of Chicago's immense black middle-class brought growing numbers of black shoppers downtown during the sixties. Today some 40% of Chicago residents are black or Hispanic, and they make up a rapidly increasing proportion of the people shopping in Loop stores. Nonetheless, to substantial groups of whites the Loop remained an integral part of life. For those with special tastes and sizes, or who regarded shopping as a social event, an occasion there was nothing to match its selection of stores. <sup>24</sup>

That is, not until the early 1970's when an alternative began to develop on North Michigan Avenue. A spiral of retailing expansion then developed on North Michigan. Exclusive business establishments flocked to the area. They opened in such mixed-use structures as the John Hancock Building, Water Tower Place and the Marriott Hotel. North Michigan Avenue is clearly emerging as one of the nation's major shopping districts. <sup>25</sup>

The relationship between Chicago's two shopping centers remains unsettled. But the North Michigan stores have not only increased in numbers; they have broadened their stocks to include less expensive items, and middle income white shoppers have been flocking to the former carriage-trade district. It is closer than the Loop for Chicago's whites, who live on the North and Northwest Sides; its dazzling new stores are more interesting to browse in; and some undoubtedly prefer to shop without the blacks, who generally stay downtown.<sup>26</sup>

Merchants in the Loop are trying to maintain its vitality. Marshall Field insists it is not abandoning the area; recently, in fact, it spent several million dollars to refurbish its main store. Still, many Chicago retailers and residents are deeply concerned that the rising proportion of black and Hispanic shoppers in the Loop will drive out the white trade altogether.<sup>27</sup>

Some observers are convinced this "tipping" process - a phenomenon usually associated with residential areas - is beyond reversal because of the merchandising techniques being used. As whites have taken their business to North Michigan, Loop merchants have felt compelled to cater more specifically to the needs of minority shoppers. Yet the effect of the changes they have made in their lines has been to send even more whites to North Michigan Avenue, where a separate but increasingly equal set of shopping opportunities is now being vigorously created.<sup>28</sup>

The new North Michigan Avenue is in many ways a model of what a contemporary downtown should be. Water Tower Place in particular provides the ready parking and interior mall that only suburban shopping complexes usually offer. (And like suburban malls, many

of its stores have been staying open on Sunday.) More fundamentally, the development of mixed-use structures insures a place that will always be active, day and night, weekday and weekend.<sup>29</sup>

The end result of the bifurcation currently going on in Chicago retailing seems almost certain to be the same kind of racial segregation that has characterized housing in this city. But if the Loop becomes a de facto black downtown, and North Michigan Avenue becomes the white downtown, there will be no common ground left in Chicago, no place where everybody feels comfortable.<sup>30</sup>

The article discussed above, about the situation in Downtown Chicago, is very relevant to the situation in downtown Newark because a revitalization of "Downtown" can be a tremendous asset to the City of Newark. It could improve it in every way, that is, socially, economically and physically. For a healthier total environment in Newark all of its people must feel safe to shop and sociolize in the downtown area, both at night and on weekends. There is one parallel between the white neighborhoods in Chicago and the white neighborhoods in Newark and that is that their people show a great reluctance to shop or socialize in a downtown area which has a high proportion of black and Hispanic shoppers.

TABLE IX

QUESTION: Do you feel the city government is meeting the needs of all the people in the city?

OVERALL SAMPLING			OVERALL (not senior citizens)			SENIOR CITIZENS		
YES	84	19%	YES	43	12%	YES	41	44%
NO	367	81%	NO	315	88%	NO	52	56%
HIGH INCOME			MIDDLE INCOME			LOW INCOME		
YES	7	39%	YES	58	19%	YES	18	14%
NO	11	61%	NO	249	81%	NO	108	86%

TABLE X

QUESTION: How do you rate the city government?

OVERALL SAMPLING			OVERALL (not senior citizens)			SENIOR CITIZENS		
VERY GOOD	29	6%	VERY GOOD	20	6%	VERY GOOD	9	10%
AVERAGE	210	47%	AVERAGE	133	37%	AVERAGE	77	83%
POOR	212	47%	POOR	205	57%	POOR	7	7%
HIGH INCOME			MIDDLE INCOME			LOW INCOME		
VERY GOOD	4	22%	VERY GOOD	16	5%	VERY GOOD	9	7%
AVERAGE	4	22%	AVERAGE	156	51%	AVERAGE	50	39%
POOR	10	56%	POOR	135	44%	POOR	67	54%

The responses in the two tables listed above are directly related cities in the United States have a negative image. Newark is certainly no exception. In fact, it is the image of Newark which must be improved in order to improve the many facets of its environment, physical, social and economical. It is too often pictured as a dying city, lacking economic, social and physical vitality in spite of the existence of viable residential, commercial and industrial areas. The image that Newark projects is not only negative

when viewed by local suburbanites but it is also negative when viewed by a majority of its residents. The image of the city as seen by its residents has been improving over the past three years however.

Senator Joseph Biden said in a statement explaining the resistance of the U.S. Congress to a request for financial assistance from New York City: "cities are viewed as the seed of corruption and duplicity." 31

Modern American Society, like an earlier America, sees urban life as mainly evil. At the National Conference of Mayors in 1971, Newark Mayor Kenneth Gibson said; "wherever America's Cities are headed; Newark will get there first". If American Cities are to remain economically, socially and physically viable then the image of the city must change first.

Nowhere is this fact more apparent than in Newark. Newark's image must be improved if Newark is to improve. In order for this negative image of Newark to change it must start from within its municipal boundaries. That is, all of Newark's residents must develop more pride in their city.

An analysis of the question in the two tables above would be purely an opinion of subjective nature. The data from the survey simply reveals the opinions of "white ethnic" residents of the city's North Ward. In the response to these two questions there was once again a positive deviation in the senior citizen sampling. The reasons for this increase in positive answers from this particular group of senior citizens will be discussed in the conclusion of this report. There is no accurate factual information to substantiate or justify questions which are of a purely

speculative nature as were the two questions in tables nine and ten.

Why does Newark have a negative image? There are four major reasons. They are:

- (1) The results of 1967 riots
- (2) The results of political corruption which existed for many years prior to 1970
- (3) The exploitation of these and other negative aspects of Newark's Environment by the mass media from New York City's Television and Radio Stations. ( The New York Mass Media gives Newark the image of fear and hopelessness).
- (4) We do live in a racist society and minorities are looked down upon by the dominant groups in our society. Thus it is no wonder that many suburbanites, as well as Newark residents, will downgrade the City of Newark because they are conditioned by their social upbringing to look down upon Newark, a city heavily populated by blacks and Hispanics.

## CONCLUSION

The income level of the "white ethnic" resident of the North Ward was predominantly middle. The sampling of this survey did not show any major deviation according to low vs. middle income levels. Since only eighteen people or 4 percent of the sampling chose high income as their income bracket, I did not think that this would be a significant number of responses to draw any worthwhile conclusions from.

In the special senior citizen sampling of the survey six of the nine questions showed a significant increase in positive answers. As you have seen in the findings. These results came as a surprise to me until I did some research into the general backgrounds of these particular senior citizens which participate in programs at the center (N.W.E.C.C.). They were not a fair random sampling of the senior citizens of the entire city or even of the North Ward. According to Mrs. Frances Adubato, the Director of Senior Citizen Programs at the N.W.E.C.C., these senior citizens that filled out the questionnaires were generally a more socially active group, economically better off and at a slightly higher level educationally. Mrs. Adubato then said: "It is no surprise that the question on walking the streets at night had a negative response because if there is one thing they fear it is the streets around here (Mt. Prospect Avenue Area) at night."

A large amount of statistical information on the City of Newark in comparison to other cities was taken from the article by Arthur M. Louis in the January 1975, issue of Harper's Magazine. Arthur Louis described Newark as by far and away the "worst" city in the United States. I would tend to question Louis' findings.



The main reason is because he assigns a equal weight to each of the twenty-four categories which I believe is dubious. For example he assigns the same weight to the category of "percentage of "Who's Who in America Entries"as he does to "ratio of people to medical practioners." He also equates such categories as "delivery of social services" to "air pollution control". I cite these comparisons because there is a tremendous difference in the degree of social importance between them. Louis' statistics are from 1969 to 1973 depending on the particular category involved. In the introduction to Louis' study he exhibits a condescending attitude toward urban living. He indicates this by stating;

"I'd like to believe that it doesn't require any perversity of character to go looking for the worst city. There are no good cities in America today; only bad and less bad.<sup>32</sup>

His attitude is typical of many Americans who downgrade urban living by accentuating its negative aspects.

In order for Newark's North Ward to remain a viable and cohesive urban community in the future, certain factors must prevail. The main factor is that its residents must not only remain here but also they must develop increased pride in their community, that is, they must develop a desire to remain here, raise their children here, live their retirement years here, and become involved in programs and activities that are for the betterment of the community.

The following are a list of suggestions which were not made by this writer alone but rather by the people of the North Ward as evidenced by their response in this survey:

1. Recreation facilities in the North Ward must be improved. People of all ages, particularly youth, must have a place to engage in recreational activities. This includes swimming in the summertime. Most North Ward residents leave the city (and county) to go swimming.
2. Health Services must improve.
3. Better shopping facilities are needed in the city. We can help the economy of Newark by getting people to spend their money in Newark. Either a major revitalization of the downtown area or the creation of Mini-Malls in the North Ward is a possible answer.
4. Our streets must be made safer. There is not any doubt in my mind that the streets of the North Ward are safer than the streets in other sections of the city. However, in general, they are not safe enough. Eighty four per cent (84%) of the people questioned said that they would not feel safe walking in their own neighborhood at night. I, like many other young people, am included in the sixteen (16%) that said that they do feel safe. However, I would not want my mother or sister walking to a store at night!
5. Conditions for our Senior Citizens, although better than in other parts of the city as well as in other large cities in the U. S., must be improved. These particular years of a person's life must be lived in comfort. Since the North Ward has the largest concentration of Senior Citizens in the entire State of New Jersey, this issue is of huge importance.

The above suggestions were made by the people of the North Ward in their response to my public opinion survey. The suggestions made below are the opinion of this writer.

1. Educational conditions in the public schools of the North Ward must somehow be improved to the point where its residents would not hesitate to send their children. Over the past ten years many "white ethnics" have left Newark because they did not want to subject

their children to the inferior education in Newark's Public Schools and they did not want to spend large amounts of money for parochial schools.

2. Newark's City Government should be more decentralized, that is, each ward should control the issues which affect it such as distribution of city services including education, the police force, medical services, sanitation and fire services.
3. The overall image of the City of Newark must be improved, first from within, then from outside its municipalities. To go along with this, the pride in the North Ward by its residents must not only continue but must increase.

Recently, a testimonial breakfast was held in the North Ward to honor North Ward Councilman Anthony Carrino. It was at this affair, which was attended by 1,500 residents of the North Ward, that our Councilman cited the improvements and accomplishments of the North Ward over the past three years. The following article was taken from the November 4, 1977 issue of the Italian Tribune:

"There is more renovation and rehabilitation currently taking place in the North Ward than at any time in the past 25 years," according to the ward's councilman, Anthony Carrino, who has praised the area's residents for "their renewed commitment and dedication to their city."

As a result of the activity, the exodus of homeowners from the North Ward appears to be decreasing and the neighborhood is attracting many new comers, Carrino maintained.

He noted that "for the first time in many years the city and federal government are showing new interest in investing in the North Ward not just through job programs, but through physical development."

Pointing to the Neighborhood Improvement Program; which provides rebates to homeowners upon completion of renovations on their properties, the North Ward representative said. "This program is a great incentive to property owners in stable neighborhoods to fix up their buildings, and hopefully, will be expanded to other areas in the city next year." 33

If you do not reside in the North Ward then you probably were not familiar with the gains of the North Ward cited by Carrino. The reason that you are unfamiliar with the positive gains in the North Ward recently is that none of the news media, including a major Newark Newspaper, make a concerted effort to accentuate the positive side of Newark. The news media, particularly the New York Television Newsreporters, have a tendency to report on Newark only when there is a major civil disturbance, an expose on corruption, or a report on our inferior school system.

Undoubtedly the City of Newark and the North Ward have many problems. They are problems which are similar to those in other urban communities throughout the United States.

Until recently, Newark, like most large U. S. Cities had found itself the victim of inadequate long-term planning at the National level. The government in Washington was unable to recognize, or chose deliberately not to recognize, the needs of its urban population. For years our city was the victim of an antiquated tax structure that relied on the regressive property tax to a greater degree than most cities in the nation. Newark was not free to attack its problems until the property tax system, which created the present urban-suburban dichotomy, was replaced by one which is less regressive (State Income Tax). This allows the cost of public education and welfare to be financed by a broad-

based tax or shifted to other levels of government. The old tax structure thwarted fiscal balance and economic prosperity in Newark. It will take many years to recover.

Finally, I hope that you, the reader of this have arrived at the same conclusion that I have. That is, that Newark's North Ward is a cohesive and viable community; physically, economically and socially.

#### FOOTNOTES

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6. Covello, Leonard. Social Background of the Italo-American Child. Leiden, Netherlands. E. J. Brill. 1967.
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8. "Facts About Newark". Newark Public Information Office. 1976. City Hall, Newark, N. J.
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10. Fischer, Claude S. The Urban Experience. New York, Harcourt, Brace, Jonanovich, Inc. 1976. Pps. 21-22
11. "There's Light at the End of the Inner-City Tunnel." The Washington Post. June 2, 1977.
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21. "Fire Department News Release." City of Newark. John P. Caufield, Director. May 21, 1975.

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24. Ibid Page 12

25. Ibid

26. Ibid

27. Ibid

28. Ibid

29. Ibid

30. Ibid

31. Fischer, Claude S. The Urban Experience.

32. Louis, Arthur M. "The Worst American City."

33. "Carrino Cites Ward's Gains." The Italian Tribune News. November 4, 1977.

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